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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Investment, Technology
and Related Financial Issues
Expert Meeting on Investment Promotion
and Development Objectives
Geneva, 24-26 September 1997
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Investment promotion and suggested measures to further development objectives

4. Adoption of the report.

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. In accordance with the usual practice, the Expert Meeting may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman- cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda for the Meeting is in section I above. The tentative schedule of meetings for the three days is attached to this document. A detailed programme will be available one week before the meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM 2/EM.2/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3 - Investment promotion and suggested measures to further development objectives

3. The Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, at its first session (November 1996/January 1997), decided to convene "a meeting on investment promotion and suggested measures in this respect that further development objectives" (cf. TD/B/44/4 - TD/B/COM.2/4, annex I, para. 9(c)).

4. The contribution which foreign direct investment can make to development is widely recognized, including as a source of capital as well as of managerial, technical and marketing know-how necessary for the development of new and viable manufacturing, services and resource-based industries in developing countries. Over the past decade, many countries have liberalized the policy environment and legal framework in favour of foreign direct investment; many have also adopted a broad range of promotional measures, including the offering of incentives, the establishment of institutions to assist foreign investors and the provision of information. With investment policy regimes becoming increasingly open and similar, the trend towards investment promotion is likely to increase, as many countries find that they need to undertake further promotional efforts to attract the desired level of inflows, and of a kind consonant with their development objectives, in the increasingly competitive environment for international investment world-wide.

5. The Expert Meeting will review recent country and regional experience in investment promotion, from the perspective of policy-making officials, practitioners and other investment experts. It is expected that the Meeting will further the exchange of best practices among host country investment promotion institutions, and also encourage greater cooperation among inward and outward investment promotion programmes. The latter include such measures as insurance schemes, technical assistance, investment missions and the dissemination of information.

6. Many Governments regard offering incentives to foreign investors as an important policy tool to promote investments. The costs and benefits of incentives and the intensified incentives competition are at the core of the debate. The Meeting also aims to promote international cooperation and to enhance awareness of the need to maximize the development effects of incentives and avoid excessive competition.

7. The Expert Meeting is also expected to take into account the interests and needs of developing countries, in particular the LDCs, and economies in transition (para. 83 of the Report of the Commission (TD/B/COM.2/4)).

8. The Expert Meeting will take place simultaneously with the second annual Conference of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA). The two meetings will hold joint sessions on the substantial issues under this item.

9. To assist the experts, the secretariat has prepared an issues paper which draws on two larger studies entitled Incentives and Foreign Direct Investment (UNCTAD/DTCI/28) and Survey of Best Practices in Investment Promotion (UNCTAD/ITE/IIP/1). In addition, participants have also been invited to prepare expert papers on the above-mentioned issues, drawing on their national experiences.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/EM.2/2	Investment promotion and development: Issues and questions - Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 4 - Adoption of the report of the meeting

10. The Expert Meeting may wish to adopt recommendations/agreed conclusions, if it deems necessary, at the end of the Meeting. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairperson after the conclusion of the Meeting. The report of the Expert Meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues at its second session.

Timetable (Tentative)

Meeting of Experts on
Investment Promotion and Development Objectives
(24 - 26 September 1997)

Wednesday 24/9	Thursday 25/9	Friday 26/9
10 a.m. Plenary Opening of the Meeting by Director 1. Election of officers 2. Adoption of agenda **Followed by** Informals: Item 3 - Investment promotion and suggested measures to further development objectives a) *Promotion of inward foreign direct investment*	10 a.m. Informals: Item 3 - (continued) b) *Promotion of outward foreign direct investment* 12:30 Presentation by the secretariat on technical cooperation in the area of investment.	10 a.m. Informals (cont.): Item 3 - (continued) *c) Investment incentives* Followed by: Consideration of possible outcome
3 p.m. Informals: Item 3 - (continued) a) *Promotion of inward foreign direct investment*	3 p.m. Informals: Item 3 - (continued) *c) Investment incentives*	Informals (cont.): Consideration of possible outcome Plenary (closing) Adoption of outcome